

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-08 DODE-00 L-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /130 W

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R 200948Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4945

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

DEA HQS WASHDC

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11165

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS SNAR,TH BM

SUBJECT CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN

1. THE FOLLOWING ADITORIAL APPEARED JULY 20 IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE BANGKOKPOST UNDER THE CAPTION
"END OF AN ERA?".

2. BEGIN TEXT: IF ANYTHING CAN CONVINCE THE WORLD
THAT THAILAND IS DEADLY SERIOUS IN IT ATTEMPTS TO SUPRESS INTER-
NATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IT IS THE
CAPTURE OF LO SHING-HAN. ALTHOUGH IN RECENT YEARS THAILAND ALONG
WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF NARCOTICS
AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, HAS EXPENDED A GREAT DEAL OFMANY
AND EFFORT ON DRUG SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES THE RESULTS
HAVE UNTILL RECENTLY BEEN UNINSPIRING. THE SITUATION,
IN FACT, GAINED FOR THAILAND AN ILL-DESERVED REPUTATION
AS COUNTRY NOT TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE ERADICATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRADE.

3. BUT TIMES CHANGE AND THE IMPRESSIVE LIST OF ARRESTS
AND THE CONFISCATION OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF OPIUM AND HEROIN
OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS MUST GO ALONG WAY TOWARD RE
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INSTATING THAILAND. S POSITION IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY. THE CHARGE AT THE MOMENT AGAINST LO ARE ADMITTEDLY
SLENDER BUT MORE NOTORIOUS
SUSPECTED CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AROUND THE WORLD
FOR LESS. TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO PREPARE A MORE SUBSTANTIVE CASE
AGAINST LO AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT OUR
AUTHORITIES WILL BENEFIT FROM CLOSE LIAISON BOTH WITH
INTERPOL AND WITH THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

4. LO SHING-HAN'S CAPTURE MAY WELL SIGNAL THE END OF
AN ERA WHICH HAS ENDED TOO LONG HIS LIFE STYLE
SEEMS AN ANACHRONISM IN 1973 AND YET THE DRUGS FROM
WHICH HE REPORTEDLY EARNED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE VERY
MUCH A PRODUCT OF OUR TIMES. OF COURSE THERE HAS BEEN

INDIGENOUS USE OF OPIUM AND SOME OF ITS DERIVATIVES
FOR CENTURIES BUT IT HAS BEEN THE RELATIVELY RECENT
DEMAND FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE ON WHICH
A MAN SUCH AS LO CAN THRIVE. IT IS THE WEALTH ON ONE
HAND AND THE COLLAPSE OF WESTERN URBAN SOCIETIES ON
THE OTHER THAT HAVE COMBINED TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS SMUGGLING THE ENORMOUSLY PROFITABLE BUSINESS
IT IS TODAY.

5. AND THIS IS A PERSPECTIVE THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THE NEXT TIME PONDERING THE
DRUG QUESTION. THAILAND IS FIGHTING A PROBLEM ON BEHALF OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD AND LO'S CAPTURE SAYS
WE ARE DOING A GOOD JOB. END TEXT.
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